

August 20, 2015

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Dear Elected Official,

I am writing in regard to the Senate Bill 438. My interests are self preservation, ensuring Michigan is looking to and working toward a sustainable energy plan, and reversing the effects of global warming.

Self Preservation

I have a 10 kw net metered Solar Panel System. I have invested my time, ingenuity, and money into establishing this system. It was not done with grants, handouts, or contracts with public utilities EARP (Experimental Advanced Renewable Program). I chose net metering as defined by PA 295 and entered into an interconnection and parallel operating agreement with Consumers Energy. SB 438 is payola legislation to reverse PA 295 and return domination to fossil fuel and the monopoly that the utilities so enjoyed. With the responsibility of changing the status quo comes the assured certainty of offending those who have worked so hard to preserve it. This senate bill is a transparent attempt to eviscerate solar from the ownership of individuals such as myself.

Michigan looking to and working toward a sustainability plan and future.

At what point do we wean from fossil fuel?

Gradually to assimilate alternate into production infrastructure?

Or wait until the transition is economically and logistically impossible.

This senate bill is not a means to that end. It is all about fossil fuel, market domination, and business as usual.

Global warming and reversing it effects.

Deniers of global warming are clueless even with the evidence all around us such as drought, natural occurring weather turned into super storms, glacial ice melting retreating at record pace. I speak from experience with regard to Michigan being hostile toward solar. Senate Bill 438 turns that hostile environment to caustic. Leaders look beyond the world as it is, and strive toward a world that is self sufficient and self reliant with renewable energy. Leaders do not bring us back to the past. Leaders lead. I am a leader. I lead by example. With progressive political will and policy, you can also. Senate Bill 438 does not embody leadership, environment stewardship or champion change.

Dan Zimmer

Energy and Technology Senate Committee Public Hearing

Hello, my name is Dan Zimmer. I live in West Olive, a little town between Holland and Grand Haven. I am owner of a 10Kw net metered solar system. The first 5Kw was commissioned May 4, 2011 and the 2nd 5 Kw was commissioned May 30, 2013. In aggregate this system has produced 43,875 kw of energy and has saved 74,588 pounds of CO2 from being released to atmosphere. My system is at peak output when peak demand for air conditioning and commercial refrigeration are the greatest. To approve this senate bill would be for this committee to turn its back on Energy and Technology the vary cornerstones of it's namesake. This bill is anti-capitalism, anti-American and anti-solar. When cell phones came into use, did we legislate against cell phones to save the phone company? When motorized transportation vehicles came into use did we legislate against their use, to save the carriage and buggy maker. Or save the type writer at the expense of word processors and the computer age?